

Appin No. 10/791,716
Amdt. Dated January 9, 2006
Response to Office Action of November 22, 2005

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A binding mechanism for generating bound documents, the mechanism comprising:

a support structure that defines a floor onto which sheets to be bound are conveyed from an adhesive application station and a wall that extends from the floor to define a stop for the sheets that are conveyed onto the floor so that the sheets form a stack on the floor, each sheet having applied thereto a strip of adhesive proximate a leading edge of the sheet;

at least one binding member that is pivotally mounted with respect to the wall and is operatively pivotal between a first position in which the, or each, binding member bears against a leading portion of an uppermost sheet of the stack so as to adhere the sheets together to form a bound document and a second position in which the, or each, binding member is displaced from said uppermost sheet so that a subsequent sheet can be positioned in the support structure,

wherein a position of the floor relative to the wall and the, or each, binding member is adjustable so as to be moved away from the, or each, binding member as each subsequent sheet is conveyed to the support structure such that a plurality of bound documents can be formed by repeated operation of the, or each, binding member and can be accommodated on the floor.

2. – 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) A binding mechanism as claimed in claim 1, which includes a shaft and a number of binding members that are rotatably mounted on the shaft, the wall defining a plurality of slots, each binding member passing through a respective slot.

5. (Original) A binding mechanism as claimed in claim 4, in which each binding member is in the form of a semicircular disc, such that each disc defines a diametric bearing surface which is displaceable between the operative and inoperative positions as the shaft is rotated.

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6. (Original) A binding mechanism as claimed in claim 1, which includes a vibrating mechanism that is engageable with the support structure to facilitate alignment of the sheets against the wall by vibrating the support structure.